Code of Conduct for candidates participating in election

798. SHRI DIPEN KHOSH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any code of conduct for candidates participating in elections has been evolved;

(b) if so, whether Goverment are considering to initiate a debate on the code before acceptance of the same;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for not putting the code for a public debate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission evolved a Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates in 1984 on the basis of a consensus reached among political parties. The Code is morally binding on all the parties and candidates and has had a salutary effect on the electoral process.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Since the Code has been evolved by the Election Commission on the basis of a consensus among political parties, it is not considered necessary to initiate another debate at this take.

Code of Conduct for fair elections

799. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission has evolved a model code of conduct for the guidance of political parties and candidates participating in elections;

(b) if so, whether Government have or going to accept the said code;

(c) if not, whether Government have any alternate code to offer and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what are the reasons for not accepting the code of conduct as evolved by the Election Commission of a fair and impartial poll?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Model Code has been evolved by the Election Commission on the basis of a consensus reached among all the political parties. The Code is morally binding on all the political parties and the candidates and would also apply to the party in power.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Titagarh Paper Mills Co. Ltd, West Bengal

800. SHRI NIRAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum dated the 21st January, 1986 from Bengal Kagazkal Mazdoor Union (C.I.T.U.), 24 Parganas regarding taking over the management of Titagarh Paper Mills Company Limited, West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the salient points raised by the Union in the said memorandum; and

(c) what is the reaticon of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.